

JIHĀD

THE TOURISM OF THE UMMAH

Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamā'ah (The people of Sunnah and Jamā'ah) believes that the Rahbāniyyah (Monasticism) and Siyāḥah (Tourism) of this Ummah (Muslim Nation) is Jihād.

As-Siyāḥah is traveling throughout the earth. In the earlier Ummah some people would travel the earth for the sake of worshiping their Rabb. Others would remain stationed at monasteries and that is Rahbāniyyah.

Allāh سبحانه و تعالى said, This is the description of the believers from whom Allāh has purchased their souls and wealth in exchange of Jannah (Paradise), who have these beautiful and honorable qualities,

التَّائِبُونَ الْعَابِدُونَ الْحَامِدُونَ السَّائِحُونَ الرَّاكِعُونَ السَّاجِدُونَ الْآمِرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَالنَّاهُونَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَالْحَافِظُونَ لِحُدُودِ اللَّهِ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
al-tāibūna l-'ābidūna l-ḥāmidūna l-sāiḥūna l-rāki'ūna l-sājidūna l-āmirūna bil-ma'rūfi wal-nāhūna 'ani l-munkari wal-ḥāfiẓūna liḥudūdi l-lahi wabashiri l-mu'minīn

"It is the believers who repent, who are devoted to worship, who praise Allāh, who travel in the land serving His cause, who bow in Ruku, who prostrate in Sajdah, those who enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil (Sin), and who preserve the laws of Allāh, and give glad tidings to the believers (Muminin) (that they will receive a great reward)."

[Sūrah At-Tawbah, 9:112]

Abū Umāmah رضي الله عنه narrates: The Messenger of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, "The Siyāḥah (tourism) of my ummah is Jihād fī Sabīlillāh" [Sunan Abū Dawūd ; al-Hākim; al sunnan al kubra]

Siyāḥah is the traveling in the earth to flee evil and to contemplate in the creation of Allāh. Since Jihād involves all of that it becomes the Siyahah because the Mujāhid is fleeing towards the Creator.

Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri رضي الله عنه narrates: A man came to the Messenger of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم and said, "Advise me" He صلى الله عليه وسلم said, "Have Taqwa of Allāh since it is the essence of all good, and make Jihād since it is the monasticism of this Ummah, and remember Allāh (Do Zikr) and recite Qur'ān since it is light for you in this world and remembrance for you in the heavens, and preserve your tongue except from good, for you would then defeat Shay-tān". [Ahmad; al Tabarani]

The meaning of "the monasticism of this nation is Jihād" is that the Christians used to practice monasticism by leading a secluded life in a monastery. The maximum sacrifice they would give to Allāh سبحانه و تعالى is to stay away from the allurements of this world. They would claim that they are staying away from everyone in order not to harm anyone. But there is no harm greater than leaving the evildoers to practice their evil. Therefore the real ones who are avoiding evil and harm are the Mujāhidīn who are stamping all the evils out.

As mentioned above Abū Umāmah رضي الله عنه reported that a man said: "O Messenger of Allāh, give me permission to travel in the land." The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said: "Traveling in the land for my Ummah is to perform Jihād fī Sabīlillāh (in the cause of Allāh, the Almighty)."

[Sunan Abū Dawūd]



Meaning of the Hadīth: A man came to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم asking him permission to set out to travel in the land for tourism (and the intended meaning here is to travel for worship). The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said to him: “Traveling in the land for my Ummah is to perform Jihād fī Sabīlillāh (in the cause of Allāh, the Almighty).” This means that if you wish to travel in the land, then you should perform Jihād in the cause of Allāh, since such is the traveling in the land for my Ummah. Going out for Jihād results in spreading the religion of Allāh, the Almighty and installing its great principles and foundational belief in the corners of the earth, and raising the word of Allah (i.e. Kalimah) the Highest.